

## Message Text

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

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SUBJECT: NYTIMES ARTICLE (GWERTZMAN) DECEMBER 10, 1976

NO. 15

ARTICLE ENTITLED "KISSINGER IS KEEPING HIS HUMOR DRY AS HE CONDUCTS HIS LAST OFFICIAL MISSION ABROAD" IS AS FOLLOWS: AS PHOTOGRAPHERS HOVERED AROUND THEM, KISSINGER SAID TO OAMES: 'YOU SEE, THEY TAKE PICTURES OF ME LIKE I'M A CORPSE.' IT WAS KIND OF BITTERSWEET JOKE THAT KISSINGER HAS BEEN MAKING SINCE HE BEGAN HIS FINAL MISSION OVERSEAS AS SECSTATE, FOR NOBODY IS MORE AWARE OF KISSINGER'S LOSS OF POLITICAL POTENCY THAN KISSINGER HIMSELF.

OUTWARDLY, HE APPEARS RELAXED. HE SAYS THAT FOR FIRST TIME IN 8 YEARS, BURDEN OF OFFICE IS BEING LIFTED. HE TALKS ABOUT HIS PLANS TO TAKE A MONTH OFF IN THE CARIBBBEAN IN FEBRUARY AND HE JOKES.

BUT, AS IN MOST KISSINGERIAN HUMOR, THERE IS A DOUBLE-EDGED QUALITY THAT SOMETIMES SEEMS TO HIDE HIS REAL FEELINGS, AS IN HIS BANTER WITH SIR CHRISTOPHER, OUTGOING COMMON MARKET  
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COMMISSIONER.

AT OTHER TIMES, KISSINGER SIMPLY SEEMS TO ENJOY TEASING MEMBERS OF PRESS, WHO HAVE ACCOMPANIED HIM TO EUROPE ON A TRIP THAT THEY AND HE REALIZE WILL PROBABLY PRODUCE LITTLE NEWS.

'NO STORY,' BUT PLENTY OF QUOTES.

ON HIS AF PLANE FLYING TO BRUSSELS OTHER DAY, KISSINGER WALKED TO REAR WHERE DOZEN REPORTERS WERE SITTING. HE SAID, IN MOCK AMAZEMENT: 'WHY SO MANY PRESS? I TOLD YOU THERE'D BE NO STORY.'

BERNARD KALB OF CBS CAME BACK: 'WE'RE ALL HERE BECAUSE WE THOUGHT CYRUS VANCE WOULD BE ALONG.'

'LOOK,' KISSINGER SAID, 'I'LL GO WITH CBS AND REPLACE BOTH KALBS.' MARVIN KALB SHARES DIPLOMATIC BEAT WITH BROTHER BERNARD. KISSINGER REMARKS ALSO FED CONTINUING SPECULATION ABOUT HIS PLANS, WHICH, LIKE MOST OF HIS PRIVATE DIPLOMACY, THE SECSTATE KEEPS TO HIMSELF.

AFTER A ROUTINE FAREWELL MEETING WITH GENSCHER, THE WEST GERMAN FM, KISSINGER FOR NTH TIME FACED REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS, ROBOT-LIKE IN THEIR PURSUIT OF THE EXPECTED QUOTE ABOUT 'USEFUL DISCUSSION.'

'I THINK WE HAD A REVIEW OF WHOLE WORLD SITUATION IN THE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED OUR ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP,' KISSINGER SAID, DEADPAN, AS REPORTERS TOOK DOWN HIS COMMENTS ROUTINELY. BUT KISSINGER COULD NOT RESIST PARTING JOKE:

'WE ALSO DISCUSSED A POSSIBLE POLITICAL FUTURE FOR ME IN THE FRG.' AND HE GOT LAUGHS FROM APPRECIATIVE PRESS. GERMANS DID NOT KNOW AND THEIR AMERICAN COLLEAGUES DID NOT TELL THEM THAT KISSINGER HAD ALREADY USED SAME JOKE IN MEXICO CITY LAST WEEK WHEN HE SUGGESTED THERE MIGHT BE A JOB FOR HIM IN THE NEW MEXICAN GOVT.

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FOR A MAN WHO ONCE SAID THAT POWER WAS ULTIMATE APHRODISIA THESE CANNOT BE EASY TIMES. HE SAYS THAT HE HAS ALREADY BEGUN A 'DECOMPRESSION' PERIOD, BUT THAT A SECOND ONE WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 20 AND HE IS NOT SURE HOW IT WILL GO ON.

HE MAY HARBOR SOME DOUBTS ABOUT ABILITIES OF CARTER TEAM, BUT HE IS CAREFUL NOT TO SAY ANYTHING NASTY ABOUT EITHER VANCE, SECSTATE-DESIGNATE, OR PRESIDENT-ELECT. THERE HAS

BEEN CRITICISM THAT KISSINGER WAS A 'LONE RANGER', OR  
THAT HE TRAVELED TOO MUCH. HE JOKED OTHER DAY TO REPORTERS

'THE ONLY SHUTTLE YOU'LL BE MAKING IS WASHINGTON-NEW YORK  
ONE.'

HE HAS HIRED PETER RODMAN, HIS LONG-TIME PERSONAL ASSIST-  
ANT, TO WORK FOR HIM IN PRIVATE LIFE AND HELP ASSEMBLE  
MASS OF DOCUMENTATION NEEDED FOR MEMOIRS THAT HE INTENDS  
TO WRITE OVER NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS, AND FOR WHICH HE  
HOPES TO RECEIVE UPWARDS OF \$3 MILLION.

KISSINGER PLANS TO SPEND FEBRUARY ON A SMALL CARIBBEAN  
ISLAND AND NEXT FEW MONTHS IN WASHINGTON. HE SAYS HE  
PROBABLY WILL MOVE TO NY AND TRY TO STAY OUT OF LIMELIGHT.  
IT IS PROBABLY A FEATURE OF KISSINGER'S VANITY THAT HE  
SAYS THAT ONE REASON HE WILL LEAVE WASHINGTON IS TO AVOID  
BEING SEEN AT EMBASSY DINNERS AND UPSTAGING MR. VANCE.

MONEY IS PROBABLY A FACTOR IN KISSINGER'S FUTURE, BECAUSE  
HE HAS NO INDEPENDENT INCOME AND REPORTEDLY OWES HIS  
BROTHER WALTER A CONSIDERABLE SUM THAT HE WANTS TO REPAY  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FOR MOMENT, KISSINGER IS REJECTING  
VARIOUS PROPOSALS THAT HE ACT AS A 'SPECIAL ENVOY' FOR  
CARTER, AND HE SAYS THAT HE WILL NOT JOIN ANY COMMITTEES  
OR DO-GOOD COMMISSIONS.

KISSINGER HAS BEEN BOMBARDED WITH REQUESTS FOR 'REFLEC-  
TIVE' INTERVIEWS. HIS SPOKESMAN SAID HE HAS TURNED DOWN  
MORE THAN 40. OBVIOUSLY, AS AN HISTORIAN, KISSINGER IS  
INTERESTED IN EXPLAINING, IN HIS TERMS, WHAT HAPPENED  
OVER PAST 8 YEARS, BUT NOT NOW.

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'SUCCESS', 'FAILURE,' PLACE IN HISTORY

IN SERIOUS MOMENTS HE CLAIMS THAT WHATEVER HE SAYS ABOUT  
HIMSELF NOW WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MISCONSTRUED. IF HE LISTS  
WHAT HE REGARDS AS ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS TERM, HE FEARS HIS  
CRITICS WILL ACCUSE HIM OF SELF-SERVING COMMENTS. AS TO  
LISTING HIS MISTAKES, THIS IS NOT A SUBJECT IN WHICH HE  
FINDS MUCH TO TALK ABOUT.

A QUESTION BY A GERMAN REPORTER YESTERDAY SUMMED IT UP:  
'IF YOU LOOK BACK ON YOUR TERM IN OFFICE, CAN YOU TELL ME  
WHAT YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR GREATEST SUCCESS AND YOUR  
GREATEST FAILURE?' THE REPLY: 'I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR  
SECOND POINT (LAUGHTER). I HAVE NEVER ANSWERED THIS  
QUESTION IN AMERICA. I BELIEVE NOW AT END OF MY TERM

THAT RECORD IS THERE, AND EACH ONE HAS TO DRAW HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS.'

THEN, IN SIMPLER TERMS, KISSINGER GAVE A PRAGMATIC AND, AGAIN, HUMOROUS ANALYSIS OF HIS INABILITY TO DEFINE HIS PLACE IN FUTURE. ASKED IF HE HAD SELECTED AN ARTIST TO PAINT HIS OFFICIAL PORTRAIT TO HANG WITH THOSE OF OTHER SECRETARIES OF STATE ON 7TH FLOOR OF STATE DEPT, HE SAID: 'I PICK THE ARTIST BUT VANCE PICKS THE CORRIDOR TO HANG THE PICTURE.'

ROBINSON

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